

REFERENCES

- RIPLEY, S. D. (1961): A Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Bombay.
- STAINTON, J. D. A. (1964): Notes on Journeys in East Nepal, 1964. Mimeographed.

12. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF ISABELLINE CHAT *OENANTHE ISABELLINA* (TEMMINCK)

On 5 November 1967 we obtained, in open scrub by the side of Matoba Tank near Yewat, Dhond Taluka, Poona, a bird which by appearance and behaviour seemed to be a Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*), except that when once it settled under a 'Tarwad' (*Cassia auriculata*) bush its upright stance suggested a pipit rather than a chat. Upon closer examination it proves to be a female Isabelline Chat, *Oenanthe isabellina* (Temminck).

O. isabellina is accepted as a common migrant through the north-west. Butler (1880) in A CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, says: 'Rare. Occurs as a straggler about Nagar. I have no other record of its occurrence within the region'. Blanford (1890)¹ accepts it as far south as Ahmednagar (Nagar), slightly north of the present locality, but this is omitted in subsequent literature, the southern limit being given as a line from North Gujarat, east through Sehore (Bhopal) to Banares, in Ripley's SYNOPSIS. This also (correctly) ignores a female *deserti* collected by Sâlim Ali at Bhyander, Thana District, Bombay, and listed (BNHS Reg. No. 2587) under *O. isabellina*.

In the hand, the heavier bill, the longer tarsus (29 mm.), the white (and not buff) upper-tail coverts, and the generally bulkier appearance clearly separate *isabellina* from female *deserti* and some of these differences may be noticeable in the field. The male *deserti* is of course quite different.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
HORNBILL HOUSE,
BOMBAY-1.
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¹ BLANFORD, W. T. & OATES, E. W.: The Fauna of British India. Birds 2: 77.